

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO *

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

Suits for Malpractice.—In the vast majority of cases, suits for malpractice are nothing more nor less than attempts at blackmail. A great many of them are brought, not with the idea of really fighting them in court, but as a means to make the physician compromise by paying a few hundreds of dollars and thus have the suit stopped. . . .

Medical Defense.—On June 24, 1909, the Council of the state society had a special meeting to consider plans for medical defense, acting under instructions from the House of Delegates. After a very careful discussion of the question, it was decided by the Council to undertake the work at once. . . .

Simplified Osteopathy.—Judging from the number of copies that have been sent to the *Journal* office, every physician in the state must have received the very remarkable circular letter sent out by the "Union College of Osteopathy," apparently located at Wheeling, West Virginia. The offer contained in the circular is supposed to be very flattering; you are to be taught osteopathy by mail at the modest cost of \$60 for the course, including the beautiful diploma. . . .

License Reciprocity.—The subject of reciprocity between the states in the matter of license to practice medicine is discussed most sanely by Dr. John C. King of Banning, in a recent issue of the *Southern California Practitioner*. . . . Doctor King's point is that physicians who do not keep up their reading and their study should be prevented from treating the sick. He cites the well-known procedure of the Government in dealing with its Army and Navy surgeons; at each stage of their official life they are subjected to examination; it is not assumed that they have kept up; the fact is determined, before promotion, by a rigid examination. . . .

The Same Pitfall.—The attempt to get physicians financially interested in concerns, either good, bad or indifferent, which manufacture the things that physicians use, is as old as the hills. The argument is always the same. . . .

School Hygiene.—A most notable advance has recently been made in the work of giving proper medical supervision to school children. The subject has been commented upon and commended a number of times in the *Journal*, and the good work that has been done by Doctor Hoag in Pasadena has attracted no little attention. . . .

From an article on "Psychotherapy" by W. Jarvis Barlow, M.D., Los Angeles.

The time has come when the interest in psychotherapy is being seriously considered by the medical profession, and discussions of this subject by physicians no longer bring to their hearers the suggestion that we are getting away from the scientific treatment of patients into the field of cultism. . . .

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA *

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News Items

Official Actions by the Board:

At a regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners held at Native Sons Hall, San Francisco, July 9 to 12, inclusive, 144 applicants wrote the examination, of which approximately twenty-two were chiropodists. The following were changes made in the status of licentiates:

Harvey P. Charles, M.D., Berkeley (mentioned in July, 1934, "News Items"). Revoked July 11, 1934, following testimony of two women. Based on prior testimony of one of the women, Doctor Charles was assertedly committed to jail in Berkeley on a charge of battery.

Will H. Coleman, naturopath, Los Angeles, charged with practicing beyond the limitation of his license. Revoked July 12, 1934.

Leman Dow Cruise, M.D., formerly of San Diego (mentioned in July, 1934, "News Items"). Revoked July 12, 1934. Based upon the record of his conviction of violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act. Incarceration in the United States penitentiary, McNeil Island.

Oscar W. DeVaughn, M.D., colored physician of Oakland (mentioned in July, 1934, "News Items"). Revoked July 11, 1934, following his conviction of second degree murder in connection with an alleged illegal operation. The records show that he had also been convicted of subornation of perjury, he assertedly having supplied with narcotics a woman witness who testified in his behalf at his first trial.

George B. Dewees, M.D., formerly of Fresno. Revoked July 10, 1934, following a hearing before the Board for violation of the terms of his probation, he on October 19, 1933, having been placed on probation for five years.

Manuel M. Doria, Jr., M.D., San Diego physician, charged with habitual intemperance, now located in Mexico. Revoked July 12, 1934.

Victor Sheldon-Smith, M.D., operating the San Francisco office of the Viscose Ambulatorium. Revoked July 11, 1934, on a charge of deceptive advertising.

The licenses of two other physicians, both of Los Angeles, were revoked. However, service of a writ of review on the Board of Medical Examiners, issued by order of Superior Judge Emmet H. Wilson of Los Angeles, prohibits the giving of any information relating thereto.

Egbert G. Johnson, M.D., Los Angeles, was on July 11, 1934, placed on probation for three years after a hearing of charges of alleged deceptive advertising.

Axel O. Lindstrom, naturopath, San Francisco, was on July 10, 1934, placed on probation for five years following a hearing of charges that he aided and abetted an unlicensed practitioner who operated the Gillberg Institute, 406 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

Edward S. Moulton, M.D., Corning, was on July 11, 1934, placed on probation for five years without narcotic privileges, based upon the record of his conviction of violating the State Poison Law re narcotics.

"Starting an active campaign against certain life, health and accident insurance concerns which the District Attorney's office said are suspected of violating the law, investigators late today seized the books and files of the International Travelers' Health and Accident Association. Warrants were issued for arrest of

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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